

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1, 5 and 6. These sheets replace the original sheets containing FIGS. 1, 5 and 6. In FIG. 1, the clothing straps 2 and the clothing loops 3 have been better indicated. In amended FIGS. 5-6, the clothing loop 3, the gripper element 8, and the hook 9 have been better indicated.

Attachment: Three (3) replacement sheets.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2 and 5-11. Claims 3 and 4, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form substantially as new claims 9 and 11. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 have been canceled (along with claim 1), and claims 5 and 6 which previously depended on claim 1 have been amended to depend on new claim 9. New claim 10 has also been added containing subject matter previously appearing in claim 1, and claim 2 which previously depended on claim 1 has been amended to depend on new claim 10. Claims 2 and 5-8 have also been amended to improve their form and delete reference numerals. In amended FIG. 1, the difference between the clothing straps 2 and the clothing loops 3 formed on clothing 1 by sewing-on (by means of Z-locks 14) has been more clearly shown, and in amended FIGS. 5 and 6, clothing loop 3, gripper element 8, and hook 9 have been more clearly indicated. An amended Abstract has also been provided in place of the previous Abstract. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to as being over 150 words and as containing legal phraseology. In response, Applicant has amended the Abstract to correct these informalities, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) because the leader lines were said to be poorly designated. Specifically, in FIG. 1 items 2 and 3 were said to point to the same area and in FIG. 5 item 9 appeared to be pointing to a different area in comparison to item 9 of FIG. 6. In response, Applicant has amended FIGS. 1, 5 and 6 to correct these informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments to the drawings overcome the objection of the Examiner, and Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action, and claims 7 and 8 were objected to because of certain informalities also set forth on page 3 of the Office

Action. In response, Applicant has canceled claim 1, has amended claims 2 and 5-8, and has added new claims 9-11, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's objections on the basis of these informalities.

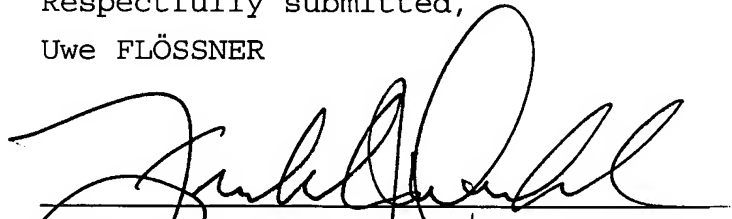
Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kirk et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,724,707*. The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections and in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has rewritten claims 3 and 4 substantially as new claims 9 and 11, has added a new claim 10 dependent on new claim 9 containing subject matter previously appearing in claim 1, has amended claims 5 and 6 to depend on new claim 9, has amended claim 2 to depend on new claim 10, and has canceled claims 1 and 3-4. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that all pending

claims are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 2 and 5-8 have been amended, claims 1 and 3-4 have been canceled, and new claims 9-11 have been added. The Abstract has also been amended along with FIGS. 1 and 5-6. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Uwe FLÖSSNER

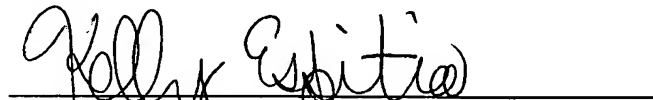


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 23, 2007.



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